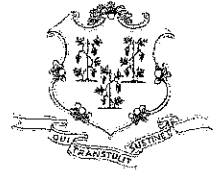




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE



Colonel Danny R. Stebbins
Deputy Commissioner

Major Alaric J. Fox
Chief of Staff

February 28, 2012

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Joan Hartley, Co-Chairman
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

S.B. 32 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE POLICE STAFFING

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection supports this bill.

The Connecticut State Police recognize that personnel staffing is, and must remain, a fluid matter. Personnel needs may rise, or they may decrease, over time. Our agency goal, regardless of the fiscal climate, will always be to have adequate staffing in place to protect the public safety and to ensure the safety of our department employees. In order to accomplish this aim, certain staffing levels must be maintained but that staffing is not, and cannot, be tied to a preset, static number as the current law calls for.

Agency staffing needs, and changes to agency staffing levels may, in some instances, be “predictable” more than two years out. An example that falls into this category would include retirement eligibility for larger training classes. Less predictable, however, are the staffing impacts of a myriad of issues, such as potential acts of terrorism, issues related to emergency management and homeland security, critical infrastructure concerns, rapid business growth, expanded agency responsibilities, and sudden and unexpected spurts in gang, weapons, and narcotics violence. Specific examples in this regard include

1. the disbanding of three local police departments (Stafford, Danielson and Jewett City) in the early 1980s, these towns then “defaulting” to state police coverage utilizing state police assets that previously were utilized elsewhere,
2. the opening and subsequent expansion of Connecticut’s casinos which necessitated the assignment of approximately thirty troopers that previously fulfilled other roles, and

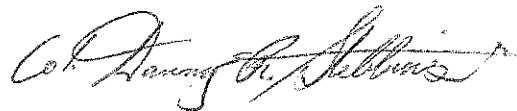
3. the law enforcement follow-up to September 11, 2001, which required the expansion of Troop "W" by twenty troopers and the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security by another thirteen agency members, these individuals again, having previously been assigned elsewhere.

The ability to report to the General Assembly biennially on the staffing needs necessary to perform division operations is a better policy for public safety planning than setting a static number in statute.

In closing, please note that Commissioner Bradford and I continue to search for cost savings and efficiencies wherever possible. Our efforts to regionalize our dispatching function, which will achieve enormous economies of scale, are continuing and enjoying preliminary success. The merger of our Troop "H" Hartford and Troop "W" Bradley Airports will become effective as of Friday, March 9th, which in turn allows us significant personnel redeployment. We have redeployed sixteen administrative troopers back to field operations. The agency has civilianized thirteen job classifications and is continuing to aggressively civilianize our operations wherever possible, ensuring that hazardous duty work is performed by hazardous duty personnel. The necessary level of staffing to maintain public safety is paramount to all staffing decisions.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to offer these thoughts for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Colonel Danny R. Stebbins
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER